

Needs Assessment – Prospective Lamoine Community Center and Other Facilities

Sponsored by the Community Center Feasibility Study Committee

April 30, 2019

The Lamoine Select Board has appointed the Community Center Feasibility Study Committee to *explore the possibility of a community center and what it might entail*. The desire for a community center was expressed by many residents in survey responses and public meetings intended to solicit input for the Comprehensive Plan. This Needs Assessment represents a first step by the Study Committee to collect information that will improve our understanding of the range of needs that organizations and individuals have that might be served by a community center. Thank you for providing your feedback. Please hit REPLY to this message, enter your responses in the boxes below, and then hit SEND to return your answers to Town Administrator, Stu Marckoon (town@lamoine-me.gov) by May 30, 2019. There are no space limits; the boxes will expand to accommodate answers of any length.

Name:

Anthony Benincasa
Nicole Chan
Larissa Thomas
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Cynthia Donaldson
Stu Marckoon
Dawn McPhail
Kathleen Rybarz
Carla Scocchi
Bill Butler
Cathi Goebel
John Holt
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Organization:

None identified – sent at request of Griff Fenton

Lamoine Conservation Commission

Lamoine Recreation Committee

Get Strong -Get Healthy Exercise Class

Recreation Committee

Lamoine 150 - this is the formal town organization I am representing, and I don't believe such a time limited/highly focused planning committee would have any great need for a community center. But I do want to respond as well for the informal group Lamoine's Little Children which I lead. I will do that in red.

Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen – the answers are my personal opinion only and do not represent any formal response from the Selectmen

Lamoine School Department

Friends of Frenchman Bay

University of Maine Cooperative Extension/Hancock County 4-H

Bill DaButler Mobile Entertainment

Parks Commission

Planning Board

Girl Scout ME Troop leader (Please note that I have been given permission by GSME to fill out this survey as a community member and local Girl Scout Troop leader. My comments do NOT represent views from the Girl Scout Maine Council or Girl Scouts USA.)

Please describe any unmet space or facility needs faced by your organization:

We host guest speakers, drawing audiences too large to be accommodated by Town Hall. We typically use the school gymnasium, but when other events are already planned, we must use a classroom instead (not ideal).

Currently meeting at the Lamoine Baptist Church but space is limited.

LRC has several needs that are not met by the school gymnasium. The facility is not conducive to basketball (very small space for parents/onlookers), and we can no longer offer indoor soccer because the facility is unsafe to play in. The school also does not have ample space for storage either - the LRC could benefit greatly from a community center gymnasium space along with a storage closet.

Alternate meeting space in the event of conflicts with town hall space might be nice, and limited accessible storage space during our "150th year" might be helpful, but it's a moot point for us as our celebration will be over long before a community center comes into being.

Storage

The current town office is no longer large enough to accommodate a large voter turnout. It has extremely limited parking and its handicapped accessibility is limited to one parking space. The entrance is not user friendly. Meeting room space can only accommodate about 25 people comfortably at the most. There is no break area for employees, the office space is limited for the Code Officer/Assessors. The cellar is inadequate for safe storage. This would make a much better building for the Historical Society.

There are several unmet space or facility needs at Lamoine Consolidated School. The enrollment of the school has increased from 100 to anywhere between 120 and 132 over the last three years, and the growing need for space is a constant challenge.

Currently there are two portable buildings housing four classrooms. There are no bathrooms in the front portable, where music classes and library classes take place. This limits the instruction that can take place in these classrooms. Art materials are stored in this space, but art classes are being held in the classrooms. The difficulty in

transporting art materials to classrooms limits the scope of projects that require substantial materials, storage space, or multiple sessions to complete.

There is also no classroom space to offer a prekindergarten program, reading recovery is taking place in the entryway of a portable and the physical education teacher's office is in a closet. Our gym is too small to meet our needs. There is little space for parents to view sporting events and/or performances. The stage must be brought in and out of the gym area which displaces physical education classes. Lunch also takes place in the gym, which constricts our scheduling ability.

Monthly meetings. We currently use Lamoine Town Hall for monthly meetings. Our organization has people from MDI, Lamoine, Hancock, Sorrento and Gouldsboro attending. We choose to meet here because it's a central location.

We are always looking for venues for 4-H events and programs throughout the year.

A wedding reception venue in Lamoine. A meeting spaces for clients outside my home.

The present meeting room in the Town Hall is too narrow to provide spacious working area for the meetings of the 7 member Planning Board. We could use longer and deeper tables to accommodate seating and the often voluminous material we use when considering applications and maps. Further, the two filing cabinets to which we have access are currently stuffed to capacity.

We currently use the school gym as our meeting place, as it provides us a large room for active games as well as tables for project work. It is somewhat difficult to reserve space for meeting at the school both during school vacations as well as during the busy sports seasons.

How does your organization currently cope with those unmet needs?

When the school gymnasium is spoken for, we use a classroom.

LRC makes due with space needs during basketball season - weekly the gymnasium is emptied, cafeteria tables moved, etc. in order to allow space for all of the parents and visitors to attend. We have also just canceled indoor soccer for the past two years due to the safety issues in the facility. Finally for storage, we utilize personal garages and the Anderson Garage.

We adjust the exercise routine if it is crowded.

we don't have any - if scheduling a meeting creates a conflict, we simply have to work it out

it's a small group, and we count on each other for resources and for space

We do the best as we can with what space we have. In the case of voting, parking is a problem in major elections, people have parked along Douglas Hwy causing dangerous traffic conditions. We try to schedule meetings that do not conflict with one another. If it's a big meeting, that organization has to utilize the school.

Building limitations have resulted in scheduling difficulties and facility use problems. The lack of a bathroom and water access in the front portable greatly limits the instruction that can happen in that space, as students must return to the main locked building to use the bathroom. While art materials are stored in this space many art classes are being held in the classrooms. The difficulty in transporting art materials limits the scope of projects that require substantial materials, storage space, or multiple sessions to complete. various locations including the front portable library that does not have access to a bathroom and the cafeteria depending on the time and day. RTI groups also meet in the library and the cafeteria. There are times when two classes are being held simultaneously in the same classroom space. Reading Recovery instruction takes place in an entryway of a portable classroom.

Music is held in the front portable building. This classroom space is not suitable for the space required to house dozens of band instruments and visual and performing arts rehearsals. Physical Education shares a space with the cafeteria. This makes scheduling difficult, as a portion of the day is unavailable for PE classes. PE classes are shortened to fit all grades in

within the time available. Students and teachers must walk through this space to access the separate wings of the building, the main office, Art, Music and the library. This creates a distraction for the students and teacher within the PE class and is also dangerous for younger students who are walking through PE classes that often include older students who are running and/or using equipment such as hockey sticks, tennis rackets, and numerous types of balls.

The special education life skills classroom is not equipped with the necessary tools to be an effective space for learning.

- The space does not have its own bathroom where toiletry skills can be taught.
- There is not adequate space or tools to teach cooking skills.
- The space of the classroom does not allow for distinct learning areas.

There is insufficient space to meet with parents or hold IEP meetings during the school day. The Resource Room also includes a shared space for OT and Speech. If OT or Speech are in session, IEP meetings must happen in the Principal's office, library, or teacher's room.

Occupational Therapy and Speech share a small area within the Resource Room. This creates scheduling difficulties to ensure that this area is not double booked. In addition, because this space is within another classroom, multiple services are often The number of classroom spaces available for instruction limits our ability to offer classes that meet each student's instructional level. We currently have art and leadership classes that meet in taking place at the same time creating distractions for all special education students utilizing the space.

None of our classrooms contain private areas to effectively conduct fluency assessments, which are critical to early literacy assessment and instruction.

Finally, we currently have two small classes that are combined into a one multiage classroom. In two years, that will no longer be possible and the upcoming classes are all too large to combine. This means that we will need another classroom space that simply does not exist.

I do wedding receptions in other towns, as the school is not always available for such events.

We're crowded!

We book around school events. We plan our events for late in the evenings on the weekends, which isn't ideal. We no longer plan large gathering events at Lamoine.

Are there significant maintenance, repair, or capital improvements needed for your facilities in the near future?

A major Capital Improvement Project needs to happen at the Lamoine gym in order for many groups to have a better facility adequate for student athlete needs.

No.

We were without a bathroom for some months this winter because of frozen pipes.

no facilities

no facilities

There is constant maintenance needed. We need a new set of front steps with a ramp. Handicapped parking signage needs updating. We need a real cellar for the town hall if this building is going to be utilized for town government for much longer. And, we need a bigger parking area.

Health & safety, code compliance, or other significant facility deficiencies are listed below. Please refer to the attached facilities assessment for priority levels and anticipated associated costs for each potential upgrade and/or improvement.

Health & Safety

- Proper cleaning of the front portable is difficult without any running and/or hot water.
- The sites between Portable 2 and the 1973 section classroom wing and between Portable 2 and the 1973 kitchen are poorly graded causing water to pond at the area . In the winter months, these areas are difficult to plow and/or clear snow properly.
- Traffic movement and available space for bus and parent dropoffs/pickups, combined with the adjacent parking is unsafe.

Code compliance

- The rear exits at both portables have a step down to a wooden deck or small landing area with additional stairs down to the lawns or driveways. These landing areas do not meet NFPA or ADA guidelines.
- Smoke detection is required throughout the school and in the portables.
- Emergency lighting has not been provided at the building exterior where means of egress discharge from the building as currently required by the Life Safety Code. Emergency lighting should be provided at the building exterior where means of egress discharge from the building.

Facility Deficiencies

- Music and library are located in the front portable. This portable has no bathroom or plumbing connected to it. Students must leave the portable and return to the main

building to use the bathroom. This is both a safety concern and interrupts the educational process, as students must knock on the locked door to be let into the main building.

- Middle level science is taught in a room where there are no lab facilities and no running water. There is no eyewash station or other necessary safety equipment.
- A middle level classroom houses the computers that are stored in a cart for the school to use. Students often interrupt instruction to retrieve computers.
- Building limitations have resulted in scheduling difficulties and facility use problems.
- Physical Education shares a space with the cafeteria. This makes scheduling difficult, as a portion of the day is unavailable for PE classes. PE classes are shortened to fit all grades in within the time available.
- The gym/cafeteria is the only throughway between the Kindergarten/Life Skills wing and the main building, as well as the portable that houses 1st and 2nd grade. These grade levels must walk through the gym when travelling to art, music, and the library. This results in constant distractions and interruptions to the PE instruction.
- The K2 travel through the PE classes are a safety concern. The gym itself is extremely small and has very little space around the edges for travel. Students are often walking through activities involving balls, rackets, hockey sticks, etc.
- The existing commercial dishwashing equipment located in the kitchen does not have a Type II condensate hood installed as currently required by the International Mechanical Code. A Type II condensate hood should be provided over the existing dishwashing equipment. The wall exhaust fan in the kitchen's storage room in the 1973 section is in poor condition.
- There are numerous issues with the heating and ventilation systems within the school including, but not limited to: issues with computercontrolled boiler and ventilation system; excessive shaking when airhandler cycles off and on; ventilation issues in the 1973 classrooms; and ventilation issues in the 1973 boys and girls restrooms.
- The plumbing under the lavatory in the shared restroom of Portable 2 is not protected. Plumbing protection should be installed for this lavatory.

Security issues at this facility are listed below.

- There are no buzz in systems or cameras at any of the school entrance areas except for the front door. Teachers must travel with students and unlock doors. Students returning from the front portable to the main building often knock on the door to be let back in. Students are accustomed to opening the door to let

people in.

- There is no emergency alarm system within the building to alert those within of a security breach. The intercom system can only be accessed through the teacher's room.
- The intercom system is often unintelligible in the portable buildings.
- The intercom system can not be heard from any of the outside areas including the playground and athletic fields. There is no way to alert students and staff in these areas of an emergency situation.

Structural issues at this facility are listed below. Please refer to the attached facilities assessment for priority levels and anticipated associated costs for each potential upgrade and/or improvement.

INTERIOR WALLS

- Sound barrier protection needs to be installed at the north and east interior walls of classroom 2 (the westerly classroom) in the 1962 section due to needs of autistic children.

FLOORING

- The VAT tile in the original 1962 and 1973 sections are wearing out.
- The gym/cafeteria's synthetic vinyl sheet flooring is lifting or bubbling at the doors.
- The subfloor under the VCT tile at the northeast door (D14) in Portable 1 have failed and is spongy. Additionally, there is a hump in the flooring in the east classroom.
- The VAT flooring in the kitchen's storage room in the 1973 section is in fair to poor condition. Additionally, the floor frequently shifts/heaves making it difficult to open the door.

DOORS

- The west door (D12), frame, and associated window at the west end of the 1973 section is in poor condition.
- The boiler room door and frame (D11) on the south side of the 1973 section, near the gym/cafeteria, is in poor condition. Replace the door and frame.
- The three exterior doors and frames (south (D13), northeast (D14), and northwest (D15)) at Portable 1 are in poor condition.
- The two exterior doors and frames (north (D16) and south (D17)) at Portable 2 are in poor condition.
- There is a significant ice dam problem at and near the four major room valleys. The school has installed heat tape to melt it with mixed results.

WINDOWS

- The five windows in classroom 1 and the two windows in classroom 2 of the 1962 original section are at the end of their useful life.
- One window in the storage room in the 1962 section (with access from the gym/cafeteria) and the four windows in the kitchen in the 1973 section are at the end of their useful life.

- The six windows in the east classroom and five windows in the west classroom of Portable 1 are at the end of their useful life.
 - The four windows in the east classroom and six windows in the west classroom of Portable 2 are nearing the end of their useful life.
- ADA compliance issues at this facility are listed below. Please refer to the attached facilities assessment for priority levels and anticipated associated costs for each potential upgrade and/or improvement.
- The 1962 portion has four exterior doors (D4 and D5 on the north side, D6 and D7 on the south side) that do not meet ADA handicap accessibility requirements. The doors have uninsulated asphalt landings; the two doors on the south side (D6 and D7) also have 4" drops to the exterior.
 - The main entry door (D1) on the north side of the 1973 section, along with the door (D12) at the west end and the southwest door (D10) off the gym/cafeteria, lack adequate landings for handicap accessibility. Additionally, even though there are ramp/walkways to the portables from D10 and D12, each landing will require a ramp to the adjacent gravel/lawn areas.
 - The sink/countertop in the administration office, adjacent to the teacher's room, in the 1973 section does not meet ADA handicap accessibility.
 - The boys and girls gang restrooms in the 1973 portion of the school are not handicap accessible.
 - The existing wooden ramp on the south side of Portable 1 is too steep and does not have a suitable landing at the door to meet ADA handicap accessibility requirements.
 - There is not an automatic handicap door opener at the main entry door (D1), the west door (D12), or the southwest door (D10) at the 1973 section or at the northwest entry (D4) in the 1952 section.
 - The staff restrooms in the 1973 portion of the school are too small to be handicap accessible. Upon staffing needs, construct a new unisex handicap accessible restroom within the teacher's room; a portion of the adjacent janitor's room may be needed to create sufficient space.
 - The paved walkway from the westerly door (D12) of the 1973 section to Portable 1 is heaved and cracked and not suitable for handicap access.
 - The wooden ramp for Portable 2 is in fair to poor condition; the handrails are not continuous. Replace the ramp structure.

No

No, other than a 3rd filing cabinet.

no

Would a new community center in Lamoine help support your organization's needs? Please explain:

Only if it had sufficient space and seating, as well as audio-visual equipment (PowerPoint projector, screen, cameras for taping and streaming on cable/posting on website) so that we could host events there.

Yes - see above for critical space and storage needs.

Yes, it would possibly offer more space along with some storage area for our equipment.

no

yes. It would provide a space where we might hold groups (eg parent groups or play groups) during the day ... or sponsor some activities or informational gatherings beamed at very young children and their caretakers.

Tremendously! The current town office was adapted from a one room school house. The offices were added around 30-years ago and then upgraded to the present configuration about 12-years ago. As mentioned, parking and handicapped accessibility are inadequate, as is storage for important town records. With a properly designed town hall, multiple functions could take place at the same time without overlapping.

If the Community Center were a part of the school grounds it could support school needs by providing updated and adequate facilities (gym, stage/performance area, library/IT) and a shared modern infrastructure for plumbing, electricity, heating (possibly a solar array), adequate parking, and possibly a shared space that could be used for small meetings/conferences available to both the school and the town, day and evening.

We do have a yearly fundraiser that we could host at a community center if available.

Yes we are always looking for spaces to host 4-H youth programming in community spaces throughout Hancock County

Yes

Our needs are limited to meeting space and storage cabinets. An overhead projector might be useful to display application materials to members of the public who attend our meetings.

Absolutely! A space that would be available year round would be key for us. A lot of events we do in the summer are outdoors, but there is no backup venue available in case of bad weather. Having a community building available especially in the summer, would give us that security and allow us to plan larger scale events

If a community center were available, would it permit your organization to operate in ways not currently possible? Please explain:

It might provide the site for a community garden, something the Conservation Commission has considered spearheading. It also might spur more participation in Conservation Commission events and activities, if it becomes a place that people frequent and see things advertised.

Yes - LRC could possibly offer a variety of further offerings if we had a larger facility. Also - if the facility was not part of the school we could offer opportunities beyond after-school hours.

Yes, we could increase the size of the class and also offer different types of physical activity programs.

unsure

yes, I think it would provide us more flexibility to respond to young families in Lamoine in a broader way.

Yes, depending on what was available. Multiple boards could meet simultaneously. Meetings during the day could take place uninterrupted while the town clerk/tax collector's office is open for business. Voting would be adequately accommodated and isolated from town business and outside "influences". Employees could consult in peace with constituents on sensitive matters, out of earshot of the public.

A Community Center does not necessarily fit comfortably with the school's daily functioning; there would be scheduling headaches and traffic issues UNLESS it was designed in such a way that the public's end of the campus was fairly clearly separated from the school's (which could be done). I like the idea of the Center and school collaborating on projects or for mentoring/tutoring, for example, that would bring adults together with kids to enrich the curriculum etc. It's a challenge to make such facilities really work for all age groups.

Yes

We would be able to meet locally year round- during school week long vacations and over the summer. It would give us other options for meeting times that work better with the busier girls schedules.

Independent of your organization's needs, do you believe that a community center would be a valuable addition to the town? Please explain:

No. There already exists ample locations for community events.

Yes. I think it would foster a greater sense of community if can be a place where people can gather regularly in an informal setting (pop-up coffee house?), and I think it would allow people to host events like weddings and other parties that would make Lamoine more of a destination. I also think that if the facility was attractive (based on location, landscaping, architecture, and design), forward thinking (built with green building techniques, powered and heated with renewable energy, and constructed of local materials), and offered activities and opportunities that people wanted to be involved in, it could become a differentiator for our town, making it a more appealing choice as people decide where to make their homes.

Gymnasium space is critically needed for our community!! Ideally Lamoine would have a new school built with adequate sized classrooms and a healthy gym space, and the community center could be housed at the current Lamoine School.

Yes. There is a group of residents (some elderly) that enjoy getting together and having lunch. The Eastern Agency for Aging program that held twice a month lunches at the church was very successful and was missed when that arrangement no longer worked.

Yes!!!! A community space would provide easily accessible space for book groups, coffee hours, exercise classes, presentations, interest groups of all kinds, a mini lending library, health outreach, little children's play groups, parent support groups. and so much more. I am so aware that there is no "social meeting place" in Lamoine. We miss having a post office which can serve as an informal serendipitous meeting spot. When our children moved on from the Lamoine School, we lost a ready contact with other families in town, an easy access to meeting new people, sharing interests, accessing information and solving problems.

Absolutely. Currently there is no real "gathering place" for our population. Wouldn't it be nice if there was an area where folks could come play a game of cribbage, have some sort of organized senior friendly activity. In the event of an emergency, there is no real "warming center" out of the way of daily town office business. We have no "safe space" for individuals in crisis to await help such as what happened in

2012. We have a thriving performing arts community, and the Grange really is not an ideal place to perform due to inadequate size and parking.

Yes, if it was well planned and really focused on providing inviting services and opportunities to the NONschoolage population. We don't have many ways to encourage our community to come together.

We feel like some of the needs are met. The rec department is able to utilize the school building and grounds, although scheduling is a bit of an issue. The school also invites community in for events such as the Thanksgiving dinner and performances.

yes - transportation and location are both barriers to accessing youth programs in Hancock County

Yes. It would provide opportunities for young people to attend groups in town without meeting in homes, or odd places like the upstairs at the fire station. It would encourage more community interaction without holding to the schools schedule.

Only if current structures such as school and Grange are not adequate

I do. I think its main long-term value is creating a sense that Lamoine is village with a central heart beat. The only church in town, the current town hall, and the school do not provide that sense in an over-arching way. The community center could be a symbol of unity.

I absolutely agree. I think it would function to serve our children with more opportunities for activities and physical fitness. It would be great if a bus ran from the school to the community center at the end of the school day. That would make it easy for children to get to a wide variety of sports and programming that may not currently be available to them if they have two working parents. Instead of staying at the after school program or going home to an empty house, children can be enrolled in new activities at the community center.

If a community center were to be established, what uses do you believe it should serve? Please list as many as you think are important:

It would be redundant as all Activities are currently being met. Prioritize events activities sponsored by Town sanctioned groups, then uses by Lamoine residents, then people from other places who might want to use it for special events. The types of activities that I would like to see in the center that are not currently (to my knowledge) hosted elsewhere in town include a coffee house area for informal gathering, event space for weddings and other celebrations (with a kitchen to accommodate catering), informal (unscheduled) indoor recreation options for winter (table tennis, badminton, bocce, cards, darts, etc.), a community garden, maybe a dog park.

Youth Sports, After-School Program(s), Summer Programs, Senior Programs, Parent Activities, Enrichment Courses/Adult Education

More programs could be added for the residents of Lamoine. See above regarding elderly.

I've mentioned a number above. I might also add: boy scouts and girl scouts, a place for senior citizens to gather, a community "game night" group, a spot where people could access the internet. I think the words community center say it all. A community center would be a gathering place for people as well as ideas and responses to perceived or articulated community needs. It's use would be defined by existing community needs for sure, but it would also inspire community "what if we could's" and respond to the community's wishes and dreams.

Let me bullet the ways:

- Voting
- Town Employee Offices
- Records storage
- Public Meeting Space Spaces
- Performing Arts Space
- Emergency sheltering (limited basis)
- Other Storage space
- Community gathering space
- Gymnasium/Auditorium space
- Technology housing
- Events Rental (i.e. birthday party, wedding, etc.)

Could serve as a center for the recreation department.

Could serve as a place for a prekindergarten program.

Could serve as a place for nonschool age activities (fitness, classes, crafts, groups, events, meals).

Could serve as a rental facility for events.

space for youth activities, kitchen space (we do nutrition/cooking programs), space for regular groups to store equipment (for example, our 4-H clubs could meet at a space like this, it would be ideal for them to leave supplies there - i.e. Robotics clubs, etc)

Meeting space for businesses or organizations, wedding reception/party venue, art displays, community meals, sales, fundraising.

Recreation, meetings, community meals

Anything of value to the public –at-large, but also including rentable space for non-public organizations, such clubs, theater groups, choruses. Private clubs should not be provided “town” space other than on a rent basis..

Extended afterschool programs: not just the sort of day care gap until parents get home from work, but increased programs and club opportunities: coding programs, 4h, new sports opportunities like volleyball or pickleball

Additional Rec sports..or at least movement to here from the school, to free up use at the school.

Teen room.

Community use on the weekends for birthdays, etc.

I think a weekly summer camp based at the center in our own town, instead of having to bus the kids to neighboring towns would be a wonderful addition. Different types of summer camps could run together: Theater type camp if there was the room with a stage could be an option, while sports camps could be run in the gym, outdoor camps allowing kids to experience local Lamoine parks and beaches as well as the State Park.

Please describe the characteristics of an ideal community center for Lamoine:

Green design and construction, attractive architecture and landscaping, space that is appropriate for the most important uses defined by the majority of Lamoine's citizens.

Eco-friendly, close proximity to Lamoine Town center, large gymnasium space(s), ample storage for town groups/committees, safe and secure building, space for community/school garden or farmers market, age appropriate/safe playground (a great example is the new playground in Bar Harbor), athletic field space, walking space.

Open space with chairs and tables available. Small kitchen, bathrooms, storage space. All handicap approved

a cellar for storage, large enough to have a number of smallish rooms, and a larger space for bigger meetings or activities (exercise, yoga, play group) space for a reading nook with a book shelf for books to "share" (bring a book/ take a book) or ideally a space for a small community library. My ideal space is FLEXIBLE . It has a frig and a microwave somewhere, some comfortable chairs, and it has a manager/custodian.

A multi-use building with parking to accommodate at least 150-vehicles. There would be a large public room/gymnasium with public kitchen facilities (such as the current school facility), but the gym could also serve as an auditorium for public meetings and performances). The gym would be large enough for a real basketball game with plenty of fan seating. There would be town employee offices (Tax Collector/Clerk counter(s), Administrator, Code Enforcement, Assessing). At least two smaller meeting rooms. Records storage room. Perhaps a new fire station attached with separate access to a public road so as not to conflict with public uses. It would have modern communication capabilities, be energy efficient, and be fully handicapped accessible.

*An attractive, open space with a variety of activities that various sectors of our population find interesting, useful, and pleasant; it serves as a social connector, offering opportunities (physical exercise, crafts, book groups, games, cultural events, meals) that help us all to feel more like there is a "community center", not just a building that houses town government and the school.
We, as a school board, feel that an ideal community center*

would be a part of the physical school campus and would be the most practical and fiscally responsible way to accommodate the needs of the students and the community, including groups in town.

We could use kitchen services, as we usually serve food at our meetings. Something like what the Ellsworth Library meeting room has would be adequate.

We would host a public education event in a community center, so we could use a larger area for 50-60 people if available. We would be glad to pay for renting that facility space.

A big common room, a conferences rooms, large barthrooms with more than one toilet.

Kitchen and bathroom facilities, handicap access

The community center should have a large gym space, with ample bleacher seating. A kitchen of some sort- doesn't need to be a full, industrial kitchen but at least a small one like you would find in a home. Another large space with a permanent stage with pull down screen and sound system would be very nice. Two tech room options: one, where there are computers etc set up with wifi for the community to use (rather than needing to go sit in the town municipal parking lot or run to Dunkin Donuts for wifi if their house doesn't have it); two, is a room fully set up to have online meetings or show presentations for a medium size crowd of 20 or so people. Finally, a combination of small and medium size rooms for meetings and smaller gatherings.

Additional
comments/concerns:

Lamoine has greater needs for its resources than a community center like getting our deplorable roads in drivable condition!

"Build it and we will use it".

I'm so glad the town is actively thinking about this possibility! Thanks to the committee of volunteers who are pursuing and exploring the notion of a Lamoine Community Center.

Thanks for listening – I have lots of ideas! SM

The school board feels strongly that any community center project should be developed in conjunction with improvements upon the current school property and building to ensure optimum use and benefits to the taxpayers of Lamoine.

Other than that, location along route 204 would be best, but not necessary. If the current building/town hall were still available, it would meet most of our needs for the future.

please be sure the space is accessible by all

A couple wish list items which are probably beyond the scope for now:

A community swimming pool either year round indoor or at least a season outdoor one would be incredible.

A small fitness center for community members, nothing huge but maybe some free weights, a couple treadmills (The Neighborhood House in NEHbr used to have something like this in their facility).

A couple 12 person vans to really link the center to the community: either shuttling kids after school to the center or providing rides to the center for elderly programming or bringing programming to interesting areas within our community for programming/camps/events.